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COUNTRY East Germany

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1. Although the chief of the East German Office for Standardization, Eberhard Arlt, was formerly attempting to replace DIN standards with Russian GOST standards, he reportedly came out in October and November 1953 in favor of retaining the DIN standards. In a memorandum, Arlt pointed out the economic disadvantages which East German industry would incur in switching from DIN to GOST standards. Many new tools and measuring devices would have to be procured, for example, because not all GOST tolerances (Passungen) can be replaced by corresponding ISA tolerances. Furthermore, machine tool steel is at present in such short supply that not even current demands can be satisfied. In addition to these factors, GOST bolts (Schrauben) require more material than bolts made to DIN specifications, since the heads of the bolts are a great deal larger.
2. In regard to standards, East Germany is an exception among the Soviet satellites. All Soviet satellites adhere to GOST standards. It remains to be seen, however, how Moscow will react to the position which East Germany is now taking on standards matters.

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